turers operating in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, how many such manufacturers have been arrested during the last three years and what is the amount of arms, ammunition and other explosive material recovered from them; and

(c) what steps are being taken to curb the manufacture of illegal arms and ammunition in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the period from 1985-1987 more than 900 illegal arms factories were reported to have been unearthed and over 1,000 persons apprehended and cases registered against them. A large amount of various types of revolvers pistols, rifles, guns carbines, cartridges, hand-granades, etc., were reported to have been seized. Necessary instructions and guidelines have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations by the Central Government from time to time emphasising the need for strict enforcement of the Arms Act and Rules framed thereunder. These instructions enjoin upon them :—

(i) to make surprise checks to unearth illict manufacture of arms and ammunition.

(ii) to investigate thefts|losses of arms and ammunition to find out cause of negligence and to take preventive measures.

(iii) Setting up of specialised investigating units in states where crime is rampant.

(iv) to collect and collate intelligence with regard to illict manufacture and trafficking in arms;

Export of Medical Plants

1617. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a number of agencies in the country engaged in the cultivation|production and export of medicinal plants such as Vinca-Rosea, Periwinkle, Cantharanthus, etc.;

(b) if so, what are the addresses of such exporting agencies and the quantity of the above-mentioned medicinal plants exported by each of different foreign compnies, countrywise and the foreign exchange earned thereby during the last two years; and

(c) what types of incentives are being given by Government to encourage the growers and exporters of the above mentioned medicinal plants engaged in earning foreign exchange for the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Export Promotion of Vinca Rosea (Cantharanthus Roseus) popularly known as Periwinkle, is being looked after by Basic Chemicals Pharmaceuticals & Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Jhansi Castle, 7, Cooperage Road, Bombay. The exports of Vinaca Rosea during the last two years are as follows:—

(in Rs. lakhs)

Year	*Value of exports*
1985-86	45.52
1986-87	29.91

Exports are mainly to France and Hungary. Export figures on the basis of different foreign companies, are not maintained.

(c) REP benefits @ 3 per cent are being given to exporters of Vinca Rosea.

In order to encourage cultivation, Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic plants, Lucknow, has developed agro-technology for cultivation of Vinca Rosea and extraction of alkaloids therefrom. NCL, Pune, of the CSIR has also developed technology for extraction of Vristine and Vincristine—anti cancer drugs from Vinca Rosea.

Charges of irregularities against the head of office of IFCI, Calcutta

1618. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) has any office in Calcutta;

(b) if so, what is the name of the person who is the Head of Office there and for how long the incumbent is on his job there;

(c) whether there has been any complaint against this officer regarding possession of assets disproportionate to his income; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) has reported that it has a Regional Office at Calcutta headed by Shri P. Brahmachari, General Manager. The IFCI has further reported that the present incumbent has been holding this post since 1st August, 1986 and that no complaint has been received by it regarding possession of assets disproprotionate to his income.

Preservation of a Goat-Like Animal found in Nepal-Tibet-India Border

1619. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SHEO KUMAR MISHRA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ernes-Schaefer, a distinguished Naturalist has promised to help the Sikkim Government to preserve a near extinct goat-like animal, he discovered during a German Expedition through the 'Yeti land' 50 years ago;

(b) whether he has promised cooperation in building 850 km. Kanchenjunga National Park on Nepal-Tibet-India border where the animal has its natural habitat; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) There is no proposal with the Sikkim Government to undertake improvement of the Kanchenjunga National Park with foreign technical know-how and funding.

(c) Does not arise.

Release of Earnest Money of the Garment Exporters by the A.E.P.C.

1620. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Apparel Export Promotion Council is holding back a large amount of earnest money deposited by the garment exporters while obtaining garments quota and has not released the amount even after the exporters have filed their proof of shipments; and

(b) if so, what is the amount being held nack by the AEPC in this regard at present?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The receipt of proof of shipment and release of bank guarantees is a continuous process. As this is a continuous process, some amount of Earnest Money Deposit of the exporters will be with the Apparel Export Promotion Council at any point of time. Efforts are made by the Apparel Export Promotion Council to release the bank guarantee and earnest money deposit as and when complete documents are presented by the exporters.